THE LAST MAR

GAME OF THRONES/ CROWN OF THORNS—2

DWIGHT K. NELSON

MARCH 23, 2019 PIONEER MEMORIAL CHURCH 9:00 & 11:45 AM

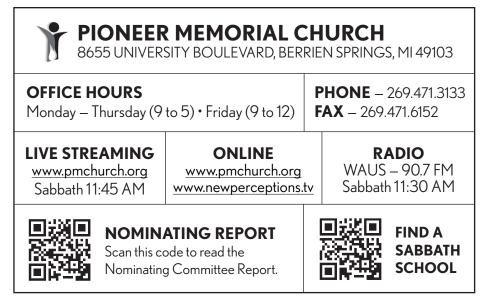
WHO WE ARE

WELCOME to Piqueer

We cordially welcome you to the PMC family worship today. We're pleased you are with us, and we pray that God will encourage you with that which He knows you need the most. He loves you.

Pastor Dwight's message title for today refers to everyone fighting for the throne. That's precisely what's been going on in our universe for a long time: Satan wants rulership (including us!), and he'll do whatever he thinks it takes to get it. Fortunately for all of us, the throne has already been won: by Jesus, when He came to Earth and died on the cross. He was wearing a crown when it happened: a crown of thorns. Next time, however, His crown won't be thorns. According to His promise, one of these days you and I will look up and behold Him in the clouds (like the window up high in the front of our sanctuary). He'd love to be your monarch returning for you, but for Him to do that He needs your invitation. Have you ever thought of asking Him to save you and be your Lord? Essentially that's all it takes. Before you leave be sure to ask Him to be your King and return for you; He'll do it. If there is something one of us may do to assist you in some way, kindly let us know. Blessings!

-John Glass



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RENOVATE: HEART & HOUSE *FOR REAL*

BY DWIGHT K. NELSON

an you believe it! We are counting down at the same time for both Renovate projects-Heart and House.

(1) Renovate: House. Let's start with the most immediately obvious renovation. In a few days, we will witness scaffolding begin to surround our sanctuary, as workers prepare to replace nearly an acre of roofing. They begin earlier than we'd anticipated because our electricians now calculate needing more time to lay the electrical conduits beneath the roof for our new sanctuary light fixtures. Which also means that at some point before May graduation temporary lights will need to replace our chandelier lighting—but we'll be fine, knowing what we'll have once the project is through.

Monday, May 6, the day after university graduation, we will bid our many pews farewell. Latest plans are to ship the pews to a church in Africa that has requested them.

And Sabbath, May 11, will find us worshiping-thanks to the generous kindness of the university-in the Howard Performing Arts Center until our renovation project is completed in August. What a season awaits us! Thank you for your own generosity with our \$2 million Renovate: Heart & House campaign. We're just over halfway there-praise God and thank you.

That's the word on the House, but how about the Heart?

(2) Renovate: Heart. I've been surprised (maybe it's not so surprising) that I've been hearing from people who are suggesting the next pulpit series after this one on Laodicea needs to be one on the second coming (or soon coming) of Jesus. No question that would be a valuable and heart-stirring theme for us to journey through in a worship series.

But the truth is "The Last Letter" has been very much a series on the second-coming of Christ. After all, Laodicea means "people judged," and scholars agree this letter describes the seventh and final period of church history before the return of Jesus–a people living in the great pre-advent judgment hour of human history. That's why Jesus depicts Himself in "The Last Letter" as standing "at the door"–a motif He used in the gospels to describe the nearness of His return (see Mark 13:29 et al).

But more critical than enumerating the signs of *our Lord's return* is the need for the signs of *our Lord's reviving* to be demonstrated in our daily living. Renovate: Heart. "By this will all people know you are My disciples" Jesus taught us (John 13:34-35). "Those who abide in Me and I in them will bring forth much fruit," He admonished us (John 15:5).

That's the point of "The Last Letter." And we got it, we get it. And we're embarrassed for Laodicea that considers herself to be fit as a fiddle and "in need of nothing," when it turns out she is in quite the opposite state and in need of profound spiritual renovation. Poor Laodicea-mouthing her hope in Jesus' soon return, all the while living untransformed lives that belie that hope-celebrating the overcoming Jesus achieved on the cross two thousand years ago while ignoring or even rejecting the overcoming Jesus longs to achieve in their own personal lives right now.

But all is not lost for Laodicea! The Desire of Ages promises: "The plan of redemption contemplates our complete recovery from the power of Satan. Christ always separates the contrite soul from sin. He came to destroy the works of the devil. and He has made provision that the Holy Spirit shall be imparted to every repentant soul, to keep him from sinning." But it gets even better. "Christ reaches us where we are. He took our nature and overcame. that we through taking His nature might overcome." Did you catch that? So that we might overcome-what a promise for Laodicea! "Made 'in the likeness of sinful flesh' (Romans 8:3), [Christ] lived a sinless life. Now by His divinity, He lays hold upon the throne of heaven, while by His humanity He reaches us. He bids us

by faith in Him attain to the glory of the character of God" (311-312). Wow! "The glory of the

character of God" in the likes of you and me. No question-the intent of "The Last Letter" is: **"to make** ready a people prepared for the Lord" (Luke 1:17). Talking about renovating our hearts-that's it.

Which is why our biggest move is not exiting our church for the summer-our biggest move is to open the door of our hearts to the Lord Jesus and with grateful humility invite Him to take up residence within us right now. In fact, the Lord's Supper we share with Him today is the fulfillment of His promise, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and sup [KJV] with him, with her, and they with me" (Revelation 3:20). Sup-the first three letters of supper. Supper-the joyful privilege Laodicea can share with the Lord of Laodicea right now. Does it get any better than that?

THE FOURTH WATCH BLOGS ARE FOUND ONLINE AT WWW.PMCHURCH.ORG/BLOG

WE WORSHIP

CONNECT · GROW · SERVE · GO

THE CALL

The Meditation

Lord, Have Mercy • Johann Habert

*The Introit

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded • Hans Hassler

John Glass

The Call

Jesus Christ is Lord!

To the glory of God the creator!

Jesus poured out his glory, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. God has exalted him highly and given him the greatest of all names.

So that at Jesus' name every knee should bend low;

Every tongue proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord to the glory of God the creator!

The Doxology

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow • 2

The Invocation

Dwight K. Nelson

THE CELEBRATION

In Praising	When I Survey the Wondrous Cross • 154 Victory Is Mine (Medley) • The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power** Just a Closer Walk With Thee • Softly and Tenderly**
In Praying	John Glass
In Giving	Michigan Evangelism • Bruce Babienco • Bryan von Dorpowski** When I Survey / Let Us Break Bread Together • Josephine Katenga
In Telling	Children's Story
In Proclaiming	"The Last Letter: Game of Thrones, Crown of Thorns—2" Dwight K. Nelson

THE CLEANSING

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them." –John 13:12-17 NIV

THE COMMUNION

In Reading

Andrea Gibbs Becky von Dorpowski**

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it. "This is my blood of the[a] covenant, which is poured out for many," he said to them. "Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. –Mark 14: 22-26 NIV

In Praying

Bruce Babienco Bryan von Dorpowski**

In Partaking

THE COMMITMENT

In Singing	Sent Forth by God's Blessing • 407
In Blessing	
In Giving	PMC Assistance Fund
In Leaving	What Wondrous Love Is This? • Anonymous Melody

PRESIDING PASTOR: John Glass; ORGANIST: Kenneth Logan OFFERTORY: Girls of Mercy, Sinegugu Katenga, director PRAISE LEADER: Jamila Sylvester; CAJON: Marielle Kahler; PIANO: Thomas Rasmussen VOCALS: Ivana Ticar, Joseph Capeles, Sandra Fermin, Tyson Kahler BASS GUITAR: Lorian Guillaume; ACOUSTIC GUITAR: Matthew Siahaan

"Time Well Spent"

BY DEB MONTCALM AND DIANE HELBLEY

RENOVATE heart & house

PIONEER MEMORIAL CHURCH

The evening of March 9 had no lack of options for activities and entertainment around the campus and community, yet the Family Life Committee hosted a good crowd for a Game Night in the Commons. The evening began with Pastor Ben sharing the importance of gathering together not only as literal families. but also as a

church family. In a church our size, not only is it a blessing to get to know the people we worship with week after week, but it's important to our cohesiveness and connection to each other in Jesus. While Pastor Ben was talking with us, his son, Arlo, ran up to him to be picked up as if to emphasize the point his daddy was making. It's good to be with family, whether we're family by blood, family by choice, or family through Christ.

After sundown, out came an incredibly wide variety of games: Clue Jr., Yahtzee, Egypt to Canaan, Bible Bingo,

Rummikub, Scattergories, Connect 4, and even a game called "Farkle," to name just a few. Kids also burned off energy by playing Hide & Seek and Tag. Everyone had plenty of snacks & beverages to keep their energy up during their grueling matches. Laughter, groans, cheers, and a lot of good conversation went on until the last call for snacks was announced. Cleanup was quick and easy thanks to those who stayed behind to help before heading home.

In October, the Family Life Committee hosted the Annual Hayride and Hot Dog Roast at Five Pines Ministries. The event included the ever-popular hayrides, along with a campfire for roasting veggie dogs and S'mores (gluten free options were even available!), and spending time with family and friends, as well as making new friends.

During the "polar vortex" in January, people ventured out to Johnson Gym for a Swim & Gym night. They had the opportunity to warm up and splash around in the pool, shoot some hoops, play volleyball, or just run around and have fun!

Providing opportunities for our church family to spend quality time together is just one way the Family Life Committee is working. Providing events, activities,

IT'S GOOD TO BE WITH FAMILY, WHETHER WE'RE FAMILY BY BLOOD, FAMILY BY CHOICE, OR FAMILY THROUGH CHRIST.









and information that will bolster our various family types (singles, newlyweds, married with children, grandparents as guardians, empty-nesters, widowed, etc.) is also the hope and dream of this committee. If you have any suggestions of events or speakers that are Family Life related, please share your ideas with any of the Family Life Committee members:

Alina Baltazar Diane & William Helbley Deb Montcalm Judy Nay You can also reach Diane Helbley at the church at <u>helbley@pmchurch.org</u>.

Keep in mind that "Family Life" at PMC is for all members of PMC. If an idea interests you, it will likely interest others. Watch for future events from your Family Life Committee! ■

WE STUDY

CONNECT · GROW · SERVE · GO

Song Service

Opening Song

Welcome

Scripture & Prayer

Special Feature

Offering

Lesson Study

Theme Song

Vladimir Slavujevic

O Brother, Be Faithful • 602

Sabeulah Bates

Revelation 18:4, 5 • Merarie Doyle

"When I Asked God to Kill Me"

"The Old Rugged Cross" • arr. Mark Hayes

"Judgment on Babylon"

Make Me a Blessing

Make me a blessing; make me a blessing. Out of my life may Jesus shine. Make me a blessing; O Savior, I pray. Make me a blessing; to someone today.

"Make Me a Blessing," Ira Bishop Wilson ©1924, Renewed 1952 Word Music, LLC; Used by Permission. CCLI License #392652

Benediction

Vladimir Slavujevic

ORGANIST: Kenneth Logan OFFERTORY: Sheldon Lee, piano

WHAT CAN YOU SEE?"

The high regard is remarkable for the text of "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" (no. 154) by Isaac Watts. Why? One dubbed it "the greatest of all his poems"; another called it "The Pearl of English Hymnody." Charles Wesley said that he would trade all the hymns he had ever written for this one, while Leonard Ellinwood believed that Watts' entire theology was expressed in the last stanza. A sharp critic of hymns, Matthew Arnold, was attending a church service in Liverpool, England and listened to the singing of the hymn. Arnold repeated to himself lines of the hymn after the church service, and at lunch spoke of it as our greatest hymn. So what can you see in this hymn? Why have people held it in such high regard? **SUBMIT** bulletin announcements by visiting our form online at <u>www.pmchurch.org/announcements/submit</u>. Requests must be received Monday by 5:00 PM for consideration.

NEXT WEEK'S OFFERING Michigan Evangelism

PIONEER PULPIT

03.30

DWIGHT K. NELSON

"How to Survive the Coming Economic Crisis"

04.06

DWIGHT K. NELSON

"How to Survive the Coming Economic Crisis: If I Were a Rich Man"

FINANCIAL FEATURE

MICHIGAN ADVANCE PARTNERS

The Estey Seventh-day Adventist Church was in desperate need of repairs. The block walls of the building were being held together by steel cables. The roof was leaking in several spots and many of the windows had been shot out by vandalizers. Estey is a country church and there would be no way that members could afford to pay for all the renovation costs.

However, thanks to Michigan Advance Partners (MAP) and its generous donors, they got a new roof, siding, windows, and even a new sound system.

We are one family. Please consider giving generously to MAP as you may be saving a light in the community.

SUNSET TODAY • 8:00 SUNSET NEXT FRIDAY • 8:08

Renovation Begins

Pioneer Memorial Church is pleased to announce the beginning of its renovation project! You will soon start to see construction traffic and work being done to our roof. Our goal is to complete the project by the start of the fall school semester. In order to accomplish this our timeline needed to be adjusted. Starting Monday, March 25, scaffolding will begin to be assembled on the north and south sides of the church. Roof work will begin on or around April 1 along with adjustments to interior lighting. For your safety, please observe all posted signage related to construction areas. For the most updated information regarding construction, safety, and use of the church, please go to www.pmchurch. org/renovate/updates. If your question isn't answered there, you may also email renovate@pmchurch.org or call the church office at 269-471-3133.

We Mourn

Tedd Martin passed away on March 13, 2019, in Indiana. Funeral details are not available at this time.

We grieve over the loss of Pioneer member, Dorothy Ackles, who passed away on February 24, in Tennessee. Her memorial service will take place on April 13, at the Elgin, Illinois SDA Church. With her dear friends we pray, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

PMC Vespers

TODAY • 7:00 PM YOUTH CHAPEL

You are welcome to attend this evening's vespers to close the sacred hours of Sabbath with music, Scripture and prayer.

PMC Traffic Team Volunteers Needed

The Pioneer Traffic Team is in need of volunteers to commit one Sabbath a month to help with the flow of traffic during Sabbath services. If interested or for more information, call or text 732.379.1300.

Kindergarten Parent Night and Visitors' Day

APRIL 2 • 6:30 PM RUTH MURDOCH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Come meet Mrs. Curnutt and check out the developmental, hands-on program. Get a \$50 coupon for tuition credit. Enjoy refreshments & meet other parents. Kindergarten Visitors' Day at RMES April 3, 8:15–11:30 AM. There will be singing & worship, crafts & stories, P.E. & music classes, play in some of 20+ centers and have outdoor play time. Call 269:471.3225 to register.

Youth Missions Lebanon

The Friendship Team sponsored by PMC Youth Missions trip to Beirut, Lebanon, is busy in ministry and service. This week the team has been presenting 3 meetings a day for the Week of Spiritual Emphasis at Middle East University and the local Adventist school. Additionally the physical therapy portion of the team has been busy each day at the medical clinics serving Iraqi and Syrian refugees. On Monday afternoon the Friendship Team distributed over 200 Bibles plus food and clothing to over 150 refugee families. Each evening the team is also assisting in the evangelistic meetings being conducted by It Is Written. There may be many in God's kingdom as a result of these mission partnerships. Thank you for your financial and prayer support for Youth Missions at PMC.

Transform Together: 4th Annual Wellness Fest MARCH 25-29

University Wellness will be having its 4th Annual Wellness Fest right after Spring Break! (March 25 - 29) You will not want to miss it! It will be a week packed with activities such as therapy dogs, pop-up food booths, pop-up workouts, a fit flash, a plank challenge and so much more! Be a part of making Andrews the healthiest University in the world!

Michiana Adventist Forum Meeting

MARCH 30 • 3:30 PM GARBER AUDITORIUM, CHAN SHUN HALL

Historian Dr. Ronald Numbers presents "John Harvey Kellogg: His Lives and Obsessions in Medicine and Religion." All are invited.

International Food Fair

APRIL 13 • 12:00-7:00 PM JOHNSON GYMNASIUM

This event is one of the highlights of the year for our campus and community. Each year we have about 5000 or more visitors who attend. There will be about 20 international clubs and organizations participating as vendors, and there will be a large variety of food. Purchase your tickets for food at the entrance of the Johnson Gymnasium. Come experience the celebration of food from around the world.

Volunteers Needed at Neighbor to Neighbor

Now that N2N (Neighbor to Neighbor) thrift store is now open every Wednesday, we need more volunteers! We need volunteers in the following areas: cashiers, sortina clothes. general organizing. praying with customers (Spanish- and English-speaking volunteers needed). unloading donations, sorting donations, restocking shelves & clothing racks, vacuuming, dusting, food shelving and more! Pray for us and please consider volunteering at Neighbor to Neighbor thrift store and client services Monday through Thursday any time between 9:00 AM-5:00 PM.

United States Air Force Band of Mid-America

APRIL 8 • 7:00 PM HOWARD PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Tickets are now available at the Howard Center Box Office or online. Free Admission but tickets are required. The United States Air Force Band of Mid-America Concert Band represents the professionalism and excellence found every day throughout the Air Force. This diverse, 45-piece ensemble's repertoire ranges from symphonic band masterworks to traditional marches, to modern compositions, to pops and jazz. During a concert, you are likely to hear stirring works from contemporary composers as well as the familiar sounds of John Philip Sousa or Major Glenn Miller. The band also features a talented vocal soloist, performing a wide variety of popular, classical and patriotic selections.

Gospel of Mark Performance APRIL 13 • 5:00 PM

SOUTH BEND FIRST SDA CHURCH

Experience the thrilling story of Jesus–a staged storytelling of the entire Gospel of Mark returns to South Bend. Save the date and invite your friends and family to experience Jesus. Free admission. It will be held at South Bend First SDA Church, 1936 Altgeld Street, South Bend, IN.

Sidewalk Prophets: These Simple Truths Tour

APRIL 28 • 7:00 PM HOWARD PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Ten years ago Sidewalk Prophets released their first album "These Simple Truths." The songs from that album have dramatically impacted their ministry and their lives resulting in their ability to travel the world, meet amazing people, and hear powerful stories. They have been able to see Christ at work in so many ways. Today, Sidewalk Prophets wants to take those miles on the road and the stories they have heard and compiled and share them with you. Sidewalk Prophets is bringing their "These Simple Truths Tour" to Berrien Springs, Michigan. Help us spread the word! It is going to be an incredible experience!

Equipping Missionaries to Cuba

After 60 years of strict communist rule, the doors have opened to equip Cuban pastors and Bible workers with crucial resources like technology, transportation, and ministry materials. Help today by adopting a project like a computer, a smartphone, a bike, or tablet. We are also conducting a special musical instrument drive. Bring these items to the church and visit <u>www.CareforCuba.org</u> to donate online. Your donation of any amount is 100% tax deductible. For more info email <u>mdivstudytour@andrews.edu</u>.

Resolve to Be Healthier This New Year!

PMC Health Ministries offers free co-ed exercise classes for anyone 18+ years old: **ToBoFit** (Total Body Fitness) Tuesday & Thursday • 5:00-5:50 PM Lamson Hall Health Club Aerobics Room **H2OFit** Monday & Wednesday • 7:30-8:15 AM AU Beaty Pool (free admission to class members) **Tai Chi** Wednesday • 4:30-5:00 PM James White Library (begins mid-Jan.) Check www.healthTent.org for updates.

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